

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 /111 W

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R 161607 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 168

INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E. O. 11652: DECONTROL 12/31/73

TAGS: PINS, TU

SUBJECT: BEN SALAH INTERVIEW

1. COMMUNIST L' HUMANITE IN MAY 16 EDITION CARRIES EXTRACTS OF DECLARATION BY AHMED BEN SALAH ISSUED FROM " SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE ." (TEXT BEING POUCHED.) COMMENTING ON RELATIONS WITH PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA, BEN SALAH STATES THAT " RUPTURE IS TOTAL." BOURGUIBA, HE CHARGES, HAS BACKED OUT OF PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS, ABUSED HIS POWERS TO HUMILIATE TUNISIAN PEOPLE, AND PRETENDING TO BE DECEIVED, HAS IN FACT DECEIVED ALL THE WORLD. CURRENT SITUATION IN TUNISIA IS ONE OF PERMANENT AND GENERALIZED CRISIS WHICH IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE ACUTE. POWER, BEN SALAH SAYS, IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE DICTATORIAL. LESSON FOR ALL SOCIALISTS IS THAT COPPERATION WITH REACTIONARIES IS IMPOSSIBLE. TASK FOR FUTURE IS TO FORGE UNITY OF POPULAR MASSES TO CHECK REACTION AND RESTORE TO MASSES POWER OF MAKING ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DECISIONS. A PATH OF DEVELOPMENT MUST BE FOLLOWED WHICH IS NOT IN THE WAKE OF IMPERIALISM.

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN COPY OF FULL TEXT. EXTRACTS WHICH HAVE SO FAR APPEARED ARE REMARKABLY POLEMICAL AND DOCTRINAIRE, AND EVEN TUNISIAN EMBASSY IS SURPRISED AT ITS VITUPERATIVE TONE AND STYLE.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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